

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
500 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20536



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

July 8, 2019

Austin Evers  
American Oversight  
1030 15th Street, NW, Suite B255  
Washington, DC 20005

**RE: ICE FOIA Case Number 2019-ICFO-32729**

Dear Mr. Evers:

This letter is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), dated March 08, 2019. You have requested all records regarding the tracking and investigation of organizers, coordinators, instigators, journalists, photographers, lawyers, and/or immigration advocates in relation to a “migrant caravan,” including but not limited to the San Diego Sector Foreign Operations Branch’s “Migrant Caravan FY-2019: Suspected Organizers, Coordinators, Instigators, and Media” SharePoint database and all email communications and associated attachments between (1) any of the custodians below and (2) any employee or contractor of CBP between October 1, 2018, and the date the search is conducted, containing any of the following terms: a. journalist, b. photographer, c. instigator, d. antifa, e. reporter, f. “Suspected Organizers”, g. “ILU-OASISS OMEGA”, h. “Nicole Ramos”, i. “Nicole Elizabeth Ramos”, j. “Nicole E. Ramos”, and k. “Ramos, Nicole.”

American Oversight requests that DHS search the records of all political appointees\* within the Office of the Secretary and the Office of the Deputy Secretary.

ICE has considered your request under both the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, and the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a. Information about an individual that is maintained in a Privacy Act system of records may be accessed by that individual<sup>1</sup> unless the agency has exempted the system of records from the access provisions of the Privacy Act.<sup>2</sup>

ICE has conducted a search of the ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations for records responsive to your request and no records responsive to your request were found. ICE believes the records you have requested are under the purview of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and ICE referred your request to CBP on April 2, 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 552a(d)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 5 U.S.C. §§ 552a(d)(5), (j), and (k).

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist

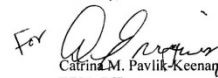
While an adequate search was conducted, you have the right to appeal this determination that no records exist within the ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations that would be responsive to your request. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal and a copy of the original response letter, within 90 days of the date of the letter following the procedures outlined in the DHS FOIA regulations at 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.8. You may submit your appeal electronically at [GILDFOIAAppeals@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:GILDFOIAAppeals@ice.dhs.gov) or via regular mail to:

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Office of the Principal Legal Advisor  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
500 12th Street, S.W., Mail Stop 5900  
Washington, D.C. 20536-5900

Your envelope and letter should be marked “FOIA Appeal.” Copies of the FOIA and DHS regulations are available at [www.dhs.gov/foia](http://www.dhs.gov/foia).

Provisions of FOIA allow DHS to charge for processing fees, up to \$25, unless you seek a waiver of fees. In this instance, because the cost is below the \$25 minimum, there is no charge.

If you need any further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact the FOIA office and refer to FOIA case number **2019-ICFO-32729**. You may send an e-mail to [ice-foia@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:ice-foia@ice.dhs.gov), call toll free (866) 633-1182, or you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Fernando Pineiro, in the same manner. Additionally, you have a right to seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) which mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. You may contact OGIS as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,  
  
Caitrin M. Pavlik-Keenan  
FOIA Officer

[www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov)